A2 end

shooting, a telephoto end for the normal shooting is close to the wide-angle end, and thus the zooming ratio is low.

Page 2, the third full paragraph was amended as follows:

A3

The above object can be achieved by providing a zoom lens device wherein an aperture at a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end is smaller than apertures at the other zooming steps.

Page 2, the fourth full paragraph was amended as follows:

A4

The above object can be achieved by providing a zoom lens device, comprising: a zoom lens with a plurality of zooming steps; a choosing device that chooses a macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of a subject; a driving device that moves the zoom lens to a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end when the choosing device chooses the macro shooting mode; and an aperture restricting device that changes apertures according to the zooming steps so that an aperture at a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end is smaller than apertures at the other zooming steps.

Page 2, the fifth full paragraph was amended as follows:

A5

According to the present invention, the aperture at the predetermined zooming step that is between the telephoto end and the wide-angle end is smaller than apertures at the other zooming steps, and the predetermined zooming step is used only when the macro shooting mode is chosen. In the present invention, the predetermined zooming step between the telephoto end and the wide-angle end is set only for the macro shooting mode, and the aperture in the macro shooting mode is small to make the field depth large. Therefore, the lens does not have to be

A5 end

precisely controlled, and the simple lens device can perform the macro shooting. In addition, the lens device can be focused on a depth-of-field subject, and the automatic focus does not need to be precisely performed. Also, the appropriate exposure can be obtained even if an electronic flash fully emits a light, and the electronic flash light does not need to be adjusted. Moreover, since the telephoto end is not only set for the macro shooting, the zooming ratio is high in the normal shooting.

Page 3, the third full paragraph was amended as follows:

A6

When the zoom lens is moved beyond the telephoto end or the wide-angle end, the pushing device pushes the cam follower against the second cam surface, and the aperture is smaller than the other apertures. The lens device can obtain the small aperture only by moving the zoom lens beyond the telephoto end or the wide-angle end. Since the known aperture restriction needs little change to realize the aperture restriction of the present invention, the number of parts is not increased, and the lens device is small and inexpensive.

Page 8, the fourth full paragraph was amended as follows:

A7

The maximum aperture at the zooming step Z5 is smaller than those at the other zooming steps, and thus a field depth at the zooming step Z5 is larger than those at the other zooming steps. Therefore, the macro shooting that does not require precise control of the lens positions is possible at the zooming step Z5.

Page 15, the seventh full paragraph was amended as follows:

A8

The zooming step Z5 is used only when the user selects the macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of the subject.

Page 19, the second full paragraph was amended as follows:

When zooming step Z2 is switched to the zooming step Z1, the cam pin 124 gets coupled with the cam surface 326A through a cam surface 326G' (a fourth cam surface). The toggle mechanism 117 operates in the opposite way from that shown in Fig. 16 to push the cam pin 124 against the cam surface 326. The toggle mechanism 117 relieves the cam pin 124 from the coupling with the cam surface 326G. This switches the macro shooting mode to the normal shooting mode when the zoom lens is moved beyond either the telephoto end or the wide-angle end. The toggle mechanism 117, the cam surface 326G and the cam pin 124 comprises an aperture switching device (117; 326G; 124).

A9

Page 26, the last full paragraph was amended as follows:

In the case of a zoom lens device with a high zooming ratio of three or higher, the aperture restricting member 84 needs to be provided. Since the aperture restricting member 84 has the aperture switching device (117; 326G; 124) for making the aperture small in the macro shooting mode, the zoom lens device can reduce the number of parts, and can be smaller and less expensive.

A10

Page 27, the second full paragraph was amended as follows:

As set forth herein above, the aperture at the predetermined zooming step that is between the telephoto end and the wide-angle end is smaller than apertures at the other zooming steps, and the predetermined zooming step is used only when the macro shooting mode is chosen. Therefore, the lens does not have to be precisely controlled, and the simple lens device can perform the macro shooting.

A11